

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7347

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: COMMENTS BY CARLOS ELVIRA (GONZALES) OF
SPAIN

1. QUAI OFFICIAL WHO WENT TO GENEVA ON OCCASION OF
EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO
TALK AT SOME LENGTH WITH CARLOS ELVIRA
(GONZALES). THE SPANISH EXILED LEADER OF THE "UNDER-
GROUND" WORKERS COMMISSIONS AND LEADING MEMBER OF
SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY. QUAI OFFICIAL GAVE LABATT
FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF ELVIRA'S STATEMENTS:

(A) ELVIRA WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO CONDEMN PCF POLEMICS
AGAINST THE PSF AS SHORTSIGHTED AND INCOMPATIBLE WITH
ANY HOPE OF THE FRENCH LEFT EVER ACCEDING TO POWER.
HE DID NOT THINK THAT PCF WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO BREAK
WITH PS AND, WHEN ASKED WHY, HE REPLIED THAT "THE CGT
AND CFDT ARE STRONG AND UNITED ENOUGH TO PREVENT SUCH
A PCF MISTAKE". (THIS VIEW ASSUMES A DEGREE OF
CGT INDEPENDENCE FROM PCF WHICH, ALTHOUGH CONCEIVABLE
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IN VIEW OF THE OVERWHELMING NON-COMMUNIST MAJORITY

IN CGT MEMBERSHIP, HAS YET TO BE TESTED IN REAL LIFE.)

(B) IN TALKING ABOUT SITUATION IN SPAIN ELVIRA SAID THAT THE PC HAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO PROMOTE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE ALLIANCE OF ANTI-FRANCO FORCES WHICH WOULD GO AS FAR AS TO INCLUDE MONARCHISTS. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HE REPEATED THE STATEMENT THAT IF THE PC IN SPAIN WERE TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES IN THIS CONNECTION WHICH WOULD RESULT IN ITS BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY FAILURE TO BRING ABOUT SUCH AN ALLIANCE, "THE PC WOULD BE FINISHED FOR GENERATIONS." SOURCE WAS IMPRESSED BY CONVICTION AND MATTER-OF-FACT TONE WITH WHICH ELVIRA MADE THIS STATEMENT.

(C) AT NO TIME DURING THE TWO CONVERSATIONS SOURCE HAD WITH HIM DID ELVIRA REFER TO USSR OR SOVIET PARTY EXCEPT TO EXPRESS BELIEF THAT PCF TACTICS ARE "HOME GROWN" AND NOT PRODUCT OF USSR INFLUENCE.

2. SOURCE FOUND ELVIRA "LUCID AND SYMPATICO", ESPECIALLY AFTER HE HEARD STORY OF HIS MARRIAGE TO A GIRL HE GOT TO KNOW THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE WHILE HE WAS IN JAIL, AND WHOM HE MET FOR FIRST TIME ON RAILROAD STATION WHILE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM ONE PRISON TO ANOTHER AFTER SERVING 3 OF 18 YEARS OF SENTENCE. GIRL PROMISED TO WAIT FOR HIS RELEASE WHICH TOOK PLACE 15 YEARS LATER WHEN HE ACTUALLY MARRIED HER.
RUSH

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